

# Modals in the past

*I can use past modals correctly.*

## 1 Circle the correct modals to complete the sentences.

- 1 She **can't have** / **might have** / **must have** left her phone at school. Or perhaps she left it on the bus.
- 2 There's no pizza left. They **can't have** / **could have** / **must have** eaten it all.
- 3 Juliet **can't have** / **may have** / **must have** gone on holiday. She was at school yesterday!
- 4 I didn't get your email. Do you think you **can't have** / **could have** / **must have** sent it to my old email address?
- 5 Your smartwatch probably isn't broken. It **can't have** / **could have** / **must have** run out of charge.
- 6 The school show is on YouTube. Our teacher **can't have** / **might have** / **must have** uploaded it.
- 7 You went 130 km in less than an hour? You **can't have** / **could have** / **must have** driven very fast!
- 8 Max isn't replying to my texts. He **can't have** / **might have** / **must have** taken his phone with him.

## 2 Complete the sentences with **must have** or **can't have** and the verb in brackets.

- 1 Jack is usually here by now. He \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) his bus.
- 2 Madison didn't know about the party. She \_\_\_\_\_ (get) your email.
- 3 Sam \_\_\_\_\_ (take) his phone with him; he isn't answering my text messages.
- 4 There's no bread. We \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) it all at breakfast.
- 5 They've left school already. Their lessons \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) early today.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ (injure) his leg really badly. He cycled home!

## 3 Write the correct reply (a–f) after sentences 1–6. Use **should** / **shouldn't have** and the past participle form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 'My camcorder screen is damaged.'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
  - 2 'I think we're driving in the wrong direction.'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
  - 3 'I've spent a fortune on my phone this month!'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
  - 4 'My email account has been hacked again.'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
  - 5 'Mason is really angry with me.'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
  - 6 'My tablet is completely dead.'  
\_\_\_\_\_,
- a We (bring) the satnav.  
b You (choose) a better password.  
c You (charge) it overnight.  
d You (drop) it on the pavement.  
e You (make) those comments on Twitter.  
f You (call) your friend when you were abroad.

## 4 Complete the dialogue with the modals below. You can use the same modal more than once.

can't have    may / might / could have  
might not have    must have

- Erica What's the matter, Jack? You look worried.  
Jack I can't find my phone. I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ left it somewhere.  
Erica Did you have it on the bus?  
Jack Yes, I did. But I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ left it there because I used it just after I got off. I sent you a text.  
Erica You <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ dropped it when you were walking here from the bus stop.  
Jack Yes, that's possible. I was listening to my MP3 player.  
Erica Somebody <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ found it by now and handed it in to the police.  
Jack Or they <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ handed it in. They <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ kept it.  
Erica Shall I phone the police station and ask?  
Jack Yes, OK. But why don't you call my phone number first?  
Erica OK, I will. I can hear your phone ringing.  
Jack Me too. I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ dropped it in the street.  
Erica No. You <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ put it down somewhere in the house.  
Jack That's a relief! But where is it?

## 5 Write replies for the sentences. Use the words in brackets.

- 1 'My back is really painful.' (might have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 'Ellie has got a really expensive new phone.' (must have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 'I failed my science exam.' (can't have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 'I've deleted all my photos by mistake.' (should have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 'Anna left a rude message on my Facebook page.' (might not have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 'I haven't got enough money for my bus ticket.' (shouldn't have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 'It took Ben two hours to get home from school.' (must have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 'I was hungry all morning at school.' (can't have)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 'Molly seemed really disappointed with her exam result.' (might have)  
\_\_\_\_\_